(c) whether Government have determined the lapses and misconduct of officers responsible for such low-graded procurement; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Two indents, for supply of qty. 25,000 and 2,500 pairs of shoes, were placed on a public sector undertaking on 5th Sept, 1990 and 19th Aug., 1991 respectively; through DGS&D. The shoes were supplied by the firm from March, 1992 to May 1992. The stores were inspected by Directorate General Quality Assurance. Out of total qty. of 27,500 pairs of shoes approximately 13,000 pairs have been found substandard. The matter has been taken up with the supplier to replace/repair the defective stores. As per the warranty clause in the supply order the supplier is bound to rectify or replace the rejected stores. In view of the acceptance of poor quality of shoes during inspection the erring officials of DGQA have been punished.

Visit of the Chinese Defence Minister to New Delhi

6358. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's Defence Minister recently visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the visit alongwith the details of the discussion held with him and the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether the supply of M-11 missiles by China to Pakistan, and other arms, aircraft and equipment, including military hardware, were discussed with him in the context of the peace scenario in this subcontinent; if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The Chinese Defence Minister Gen Chi Haotian visited India in September, 1994. This was a return visit to the visit of Raksha Mantri to China in 1992 as a part of the policy of the Government of India to improve relations with neighbouring countries including China. During the visit topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Acquiring of Lakshya

6359. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to acquire a batch of 'Lakshya' Pilotless Target Aircraft, displayed during this year's Republic Day Parade; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and the details of the acquisition arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pilotless target aircraft is proposed to be acquired for training in anti aircraft gun fire and tracking/realistic simulation of enemy aircraft for air-to-air and surface-to-air weapon system. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Bangalore has been designated as the production agency for LAKSHYA. However, pending transfer of technology to HAL, for which process has been initiated, limited series production has been planned at Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bangalore, a DRDO Laboratory.

Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers

6360. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 613 given in the Rajya Sabha on the

16th March, 1995 and state:

(a) with which country the deal to buy the Advance Jet Trainers has been struck and what is its worth;

(b) whether the I.A.F. is planning to buy the latest MI-172 passenger helicopters from Russian-based Kazan Helicopters Joint Stock Co.; and

(c) if so, the terms negotiated with the Kazan Helicopters whose senior officials were in Indian recently, the mode of payment and other related issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No contract for purchase of AJT has been finalised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

News item on Agni

6361. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Agni in State of suspended animation US" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated the 11th March, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) It has been reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 11 March 1995 that the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State had stated before Senate Foreign Relations Sub-committee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs that Agni programme is in a state of 'suspended animation' and the Prithvi programme is still in the user trial stage.

(c) With its three flight tests, the re-entry technology demonstration project Agni has been successfully completed. The Government are examining the situation consequent to the successful test flights of Agni. The users' trials of Prithvi have been concluded. Subsequent activities are being progressed.

Scheme of Tax benefits to help Computer Education

6362. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme of tax benefits to help computer education in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the benefits for companies and individuals who are working on computer LITERACY;

(c) whether any safeguards have been incorporated into this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. However, in a National level Seminar on "Role of Electronics in Rural and Social Development" held in Goa on 23.4.95, recommendations have been made to adopt, as a policy measure, tax incentives to attract donations for the purpose of promoting computer education in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.